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Meet Our New Community Engagement Coordinator

Please join us in welcoming Parkland's new Community Engagement Coordinator, Abigail Padfield Narayan!

Abigail recently moved to Champaign with her husband and dog, Kepler. She will be taking over for Lashanti.

Originally from California, Abigail has lived in every region of the United States. She completed a Master's in Early Modern History at the University of York, England and a Master's in Communication and Leadership at Gonzaga University. She is currently working on a PhD in Texts and Technology with a focus in Public History. Her dissertation topic focuses on Civil War Monuments in Maryland.

Abigail enjoys hiking, kayaking, and swimming. She is a Harry Potter fan and aspires to one day have the wit of Lady Violet from Downton Abbey.

Abigail is looking forward to strengthening Parkland's community partnerships and service opportunities for students, faculty, and staff.

You can visit Abigail in her office within the Center for Community Engagement (C-134)!



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Garden Hills Homework Club Comes to Parkland



Students from the Garden Hills Homework Club came to visit Parkland College on Monday, November 18, 2019. Dean of Students, Marietta Turner welcomed Garden Hills Elementary School students and Parkland College volunteers. Students experimented with the Augmented Reality Sandbox, learning about how elevation changes and what that means when building houses in their communities with Professor Julie Angel, visited the virtual dissection table with Professor Lori Garrett, allowing them to view the muscles, organs, and bones inside the body, and watched a video about the Earth Moon, and Sun at the Planetarium. We thank all the professors, volunteers, and staff that helped make this trip a success!

GHHC is wrapping up the fall semester but we are looking for volunteers for the spring! The Homework Club is a one-on-one tutoring program that focuses on improving literacy and math skills. It is held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00 pm at Garden Hills Elementary, and any Parkland student, faculty, or staff can volunteer. Please contact Brian Nudelman or Abigail Padfield Narayan if you are interested in volunteering, or would like one of them to present to your class.

Share Your S-L Stories

If you are involved in service-learning with Parkland students, please share your stories with the Parkland community by contacting Abigail Padfield Narayan.

Interested in Service Learning

If you are interested in bringing service-learning into your classroom please contact Brian Nudelman or Abigail Padfield Narayan.

Online Resources:

CUVolunteer

National Service-Learning
Clearinghouse

Parkland Service-Learning

Holiday Volunteer Opportunities

Are you starting to get into the holiday spirit and looking for ways to give back to your community? Think about volunteering! Check out <https://cuvolunteer.org/> for updated volunteer opportunities with organizations right here in Champaign-Urbana. CU Volunteer makes it easy to find volunteer opportunities through its user-friendly website. Search for opportunities by interest, skill, organization, or date. Whether you're looking for a way to give back during the holidays, or to start a new relationship with a community organization, CU Volunteer is a valuable resource.

If you want to volunteer but are unsure of where to start looking, even with CU Volunteer, here are a few suggestions:

- Wesley Food Pantry
 - o The Wesley Food Pantry is always looking for volunteers to help in distributing food to families and individuals in need
- Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
 - o There's no better way to serve during the holidays than to volunteer with the soup kitchen, which provides hundreds of community members with warm meals every day

MLK Day of Service



Join the Center for Community Engagement at Parkland for our annual Martin Luther King Day of Service on Monday, January 20, 2020. We will be working with the Wesley Food Pantry at Parkland College to repackage food for local families experiencing food scarcity. The Food Repack will be held in the X-Wing Vending Lounge from 10:00 am to 12:00pm. For more information on our MLK Day of Service activities, please contact Abigail Padfield Narayan.

The pantry is open every Wednesday 1pm-3pm and the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 10:00-noon.

The pantry provides opportunities for service-learning on the Parkland campus. Check out their website for more information about the Wesley Food Pantry and volunteer opportunities with them. Please contact Brian Nudelman or Abigail Padfield Narayan for information on starting a service-learning component with the pantry.

Volunteer Fair January 29, 2020

Mark your calendars for our Spring Volunteer Fair, set for Wednesday, January 29th, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, in the College Center. The Volunteer Fair is a great way to network, meet local nonprofit organizations, and become involved in local volunteer opportunities. We had a great turnout this semester, so we're excited to invite you to stop by the Fair, tell your friends about it, or maybe bring your class by to visit with community organizations.

For more information, or for a list of participating organizations, please contact Abigail Padfield Narayan.

Service-Learning Advisory Council Meetings

Join the Service-Learning Advisory Council this spring to talk about matters related to volunteerism and Service-Learning here at Parkland College. The SLAC is busy planning the Martin Luther King Day of Service, discussing the Garden Hills Homework Club, and coordinating other service-related events and programs. Come on out to hear what is happening on the front lines of service here at the College.

Spring meetings will be held on February 6 and April 2 at 3:00pm in C-134.

